

TACONIC HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Dr. Neil L. Howard, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
518.325.2890
Fax: 518.325.2893

Sandra J. Gardner
**Director of Instruction &
Staff Development**
518.325.2805
Fax: 518.325.2808

Cybil C. Howard
Business Manager
518.325.2810
Fax: 518.325.2817

Jack Costello
**Director of Pupil Personnel
Services**
518.325.2850
Fax: 518.325.2853

John V. Gulisane, Jr.
**Elementary School
Principal**
518.325.2820
Fax: 518.325.2825

Jane Case
**Elementary School
Assistant Principal**
518.325.2820
Fax: 518.325.2825

James Buhrmaster
**Junior/Senior High School
Principal**
518.325.2840
Fax: 518.325.2845

Mary D'Amico
**Junior/Senior High School
Assistant Principal**
518.325.2840
Fax: 518.325.2845

Nicholas J. Smith
Director of Facilities II
518.325.2880
Fax: 518.325.2884

Richard J. Viebrock
**Supervisor of
Transportation**
518.325.2870
Fax: 518.325.2874

John Dodds
**Coordinator of Computer
Technology**
518.325.2877
Fax: 518.325.2878

Pamela A. Strompf
Food Service
518.325.2885
Fax: 518.325.2884

Angela Webster
Athletic Director
518.325.2896

Frank Jause
Assistant Athletic Director
518.325.2897

73 County Route 11A, Craryville, NY 12521
518.325.2800
www.taconichills.k12.ny.us

April 14, 2016

Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation
U.S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Dutchess County and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and Under Mountain Road in the Town of Ancram; the tunnel crossing of State Route 22 at the intersection of State Route 22 and Orphan Farm Road (Copake Falls); and three pedestrian bridges to connect to the trail at Black Grocery Road in Copake. These three components will finish approximately 28 miles of trail from Wassaica (Dutchess County) to Hillsdale (Columbia County), linking to New York City via Metro North Railroad. Upon completion the entire trail will be 46 miles in length.

This project will join two counties, New York State Parks, and a not-for-profit organization which may perhaps become a destination for thousands of people from near and afar. The Taconic Hills Central School District students, families, and teachers would use the rail trail for exercise, education and service learning. We do not currently have a home cross county course and the trail may be an option if approved. The trail might also be part of a physical education unit on hiking or orienteering. Science classes possibly will use the trail for species collection and population study. The trail can also provide an opportunity for students who need service learning credit by performing general trail clearing or maintenance tasks or duties.

I am hopeful that you and the review committee will consider a grant for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association to aid them in improving this important "connection" in eastern Dutchess and Columbia Counties. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Neil L. Howard Jr.
Superintendent of Schools